

# THE PUBLIC ROAD PROBLEM.

Prof. Holmes' Address Before the Good Roads Convention.

## NEW ERA IN THE SOUTH.

Bad Roads Have Retarded Our Development Along Every Line—Mud and Sand Tax.

The following is the address of Prof. J. A. Holmes, State Geologist of North Carolina, before the Good Roads Convention in Columbia during fair week. He said:

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

Our meeting is an evidence of the fact which we have come to recognize, that the public road problem is the foremost of the economic problems which, in this part of our country, we are called upon to solve at the present time. The awakening of interest in this subject is one of the phases in the development of the new era in the old South. During the past quarter of a century we have seen in all the Southern States the gradual development of this new era, especially in connection with the growth of diversified industries, such as the trucking industry along our gulf and South Atlantic seaboard, the springing up of various manufacturing enterprises throughout our hill country, the growth of our mining industries, the development of our systems of transportation, both by railroad and by water.

We note but one exception to our increase in prosperity along various lines, and that is in connection with the agricultural interests of the country, and while in some respects these interests have pushed ahead, in other respects they have gone back. It will be out of place here to enter into a discussion as to all of the causes of this agricultural depression about which we hear so much, but undoubtedly one of the greatest causes is the condition of our public roads.

These bad roads have retarded development along every line. They have interfered with our schools and with our churches, and with the pleasures and comforts of our people in many other ways. Their blighting influence bears heavily on all, but especially on the farming classes. But what is of more vital importance is the fact that these bad roads constitute an enormous mud and sand tax of not less than \$5 per capita per annum on every man, woman and child living in the Southern States. In South Carolina alone this terrible burden amounts to not less than \$5,000,000 annually. No wonder that our people stagger under such a burden, which they do not seem either to realize or to understand.

This means that it costs the people of South Carolina every year \$5,000,000 more to do the hauling and the traveling which they now do on the public roads, than it would cost to do the same amount of hauling and traveling if there existed in the State good macadam roads instead of the present poor dirt roads. Every tax levied is supposed to benefit the people who levy it and the money thus paid by the people as the tax soon comes back into circulation and reaches them again, but this \$5,000,000 mud tax, which is levied regardless of the will of the people by the inexorable law of nature and the conditions of trade, is a complete loss, as it benefits no one. It is simply an enormous yearly drain upon the energies, resources and money of our people, which is senseless and useless as it is enormous, and is a total loss.

Our people complain that they are already too poor to build costly macadam roads. The truth is we are too poor to do without them, and so long as our bad roads continue we may expect to be poor. Indeed, as compared with other States and countries which have good roads we may expect to become annually poorer. Without good roads every phase of the industrial progress of the South will be greatly retarded and her agricultural interest will relatively go backward.

This public road problem is of too vital importance to be left longer in the background. We must give it the recognition which it demands. We have been asleep long enough. We are not a wealthy people, nor have we a dense population, but we must accept the situation as it is and make the best of it.

Friends of good roads must organize and carry this campaign of education into every household. The Good Roads League and the wheelmen must enlist in this work the farmers, the politicians and the bankers, the preachers and the doctors, the women as well as the men, colored citizens as well as the white.

The State must do its part. We ought to have in every Southern State a road commission to officially aid in organizing and directing the work of road improvement. The State should provide for the training of road engineers at all of its institutions for higher education. It should make an appropriation which could be used to supplement the moneys raised by counties and townships for permanent road work and thus encourage this sort of work. It should use its convicts for the crushing of stone at certain central points, from which stone could be shipped to the various counties.

The counties must do their part. They must be the unit of action, provide funds for pushing forward the work on a business-like basis. They should purchase full outfits of road machinery; they should use all their own convicts sentenced for periods less than 10 years, and hire labor when necessary to supplement the convict force. The people living along the lines of road to be improved should give the right of way for new roads; they should give the stone from their farms for macadamizing purposes and should co-operate in every possible way with county and State authorities.

First of all, before beginning the permanent improvement of any piece of road it should be carefully surveyed by a competent engineer and its location should be changed whenever by so doing a better road can be provided.

Nowhere except in mountain regions should there be allowed on our prominent public roads a grade steeper than

5 per cent. (3 feet in 100) and in the more level portions of the States 3 feet in 100 should be regarded as a maximum grade.

While some arrangement must of course be made for keeping in repair the unimproved roads from year to year, yet the work of the county should be concentrated as far as possible on permanent improvement, and the system of beginning this permanent work at the county seat and extending it as rapidly as possible outward into the county by degrees on the more important public roads is undoubtedly the system which accomplishes the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

We must regard road building as a business. It demands intelligent supervision as much as railroad building, or cotton manufacturing, or any other sort of business. We must select for the position of road supervisors the most competent men to be found, regardless of their politics or other considerations, and whenever we can find a better man for the place we should feel duty bound to make the change. The friends of good roads must in time stand by the supervisor and aid him in his work. We must not make the mistake of wasting the little money which can be raised by taxation for this purpose and hence we need constantly the best engineers and the best road builders which can be employed.

### A CIRCULAR

Regarding the Making of Returns by the Merchants of the State.

Comptroller General Epton has undertaken to apply the provisions of a law on the statute books, which has been there for a number of years, but has never yet been enforced. It is in regard to the returns of merchants of their property for taxation. If the act's provisions are thoroughly enforced throughout the State the results will be rather far-reaching.

Mr. Epton says he is not after instituting radical reforms in the tax department; in fact, he does not entirely approve of this section, but says that inasmuch as he finds the act on the statute books, it is his duty to enforce its provisions so far as he is able. He is of the opinion that its enforcement will relieve many merchants from hardships they now bear.

Here is his circular to the county auditors: DEAR SIR:—Your attention is directed to the requirements of section 229 of the revised statutes 1893. In order that the provisions of this section may be complied with, you are requested to at once send to this office the number of merchants in your county. When returns for this purpose will be furnished you.

This department will insist that all merchants comply with the requirements of this section.

You will take the necessary steps to put this form for return in the hands of every merchant in your county at the earliest day practicable.

Yours truly, L. P. EPTON, Comptroller General.

The following is a copy of the section of the act which the circular has reference to:

Section 229 (177). Any person who shall at any place in this State, be engaged in the business of buying and selling personal property consigned to him from any place out of the State, or property not the product of this State, consigned to him from any place within the State, shall be held to be a merchant, and, at the same time he is required to list his other personal property, shall deliver to the auditor of the county in which his business is situated a statement under his oath of the average monthly value of his personal property, moneys and credits pertaining to his mercantile business, to ascertain which he shall set down the value on hand on the 1st day of January of the preceding year, or other time of commencing business during the year, add thereto all purchases, when made, at cost and the remainder shall be the average on hand for that month; and in like manner ascertain the average value for each month, down to the 1st day of January of the year in which the return is to be made, add together such month values, divide the aggregate by the number of months he has been in business during the preceding year, as aforesaid, and to the quotient add the moneys and credits on hand the first day of January in the year in which the return is made, and the product of this last addition shall be the sum upon which he shall pay taxes for the year in which the return is made: Provided, That when business is opened after the 1st day of January of the preceding year and closed before the 1st day of January of the year in which the return is made, the parties opening and closing such business shall make returns on merchandise—the time of opening and closing such business being the times used as the basis of the return as established in this section.

The new comptroller has also discovered a typographical error in the printed copy of the assessment act. The copy made it appear that the time for taking returns expires on February 12. The error has been corrected in the following circular sent to the auditors: DEAR SIR:—Your attention is directed to page 464 acts 1897, which provides for the making of tax returns from January 1 to February 20 of each year.

Yours truly, L. P. EPTON, Comptroller General.

### HIS AIR GAVE OUT.

Spats—Why is Handel-Barrs bandaged so?

Socrates—He's been studying medicinal history.

Spats—What had that to do with it?

Socrates—He wanted to feel how it was to be broken on the wheel.

### EFFECT OF CHANGE.

You certainly look better; you must have followed my advice and had a change.

Yes, doctor, so I have.

Where did you go?

I went to another physician.

The Wife—"What a sweet smile there is on the baby's face, John." The Husband—"Yes, he's probably dreaming that he's keeping me awake."—Town Topics.

There may be lots of nice men in the world, but the bill collectors don't meet them.

# THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The State's Appeal Taken to Supreme Court in Vandercook Case.

## THE JUVENILE REFORMATORY.

After the Merchants—No Interest Account—To Warm Legislators—Other S. C. Happenings.

The appeal in the Vandercook case has been taken and now the case goes up before the United States Supreme Court for a final decision. The mass of papers has at last been compiled and Judge Simonton has signed them, which carries the case before the highest tribunal of the country. The papers are very voluminous. It is understood that the attorney general will go immediately to Washington and endeavor to have the case heard and a decision rendered before the legislature adjourns so that the law makers may not have to be reassembled to dispose of the carcass, should the Supreme Court affirm Judge Simonton's decision. If Judge Simonton's opinion is affirmed then the legislature will be called upon to provide some legislation to meet the trade of the original package agencies. In either event the State will save considerable money by a decision from the court before the legislature adjourns and all possible efforts will be made to this end.

There were two batches of papers filed by Assistant Attorney General Townsend. One batch refers to the equity part of the appeal and the other to the points at law. The assignment of errors states that the bill of complaint presents no question arising under the constitution or laws of the United States and that the court has no jurisdiction, as there are other adequate remedies at law, if the allegations are true. It further says that Judge Simonton erred in holding the dispensary act and the provisions relative to the prohibition of the importation of and the inspection of liquors not a valid exercise of the police powers of the State and in contravention of the constitution of the United States and the inter-State commerce act. The condition is also made that Judge Simonton erred in holding that a non-resident can import, store or sell liquors, either himself or by an agent.

The bill of exception also contends that the court has no jurisdiction and that the plaintiff is not the real party in interest. No action of the kind can be maintained under the dispensary act and the constables cannot be sued. That there is a misjoinder of cause of action in that the plaintiff sues for recovery of the possession of personal property and also for exemplary damages for the commission of a trespass in taking the same. The dispensary, the State contends, is not in conflict with article 9 of the constitution of the United States and its provisions.

The parties defendant are S. W. Vance, J. M. Scott, W. N. Bahr, W. Livingston, C. S. Moseley and M. Peterson. As will be seen from the above should the State lose the case the State authorities will have to pay the judgments, amounting to \$1,000 for the loss of the liquors and \$1,000 damages or the parties defendant will be held themselves responsible for the \$2,000 awarded to the Vandercook company by the jury.

Governor Ellerbe, in a general conversation about his annual message to the General Assembly, indicated that it was his intention to make it as brief as possible and at the same time cover all of the points of importance. He said that he had asked for certain information and that as soon as he secured this he would be able to begin active work on his message. It is evident that the liquor problem will be the leading issue discussed by Governor Ellerbe and he is not making public at this juncture what he will urge upon the General Assembly as the best solution of the problem.—The State.

Governor Ellerbe is very much delighted that the State has not had to pay any interest this year. Although the finances of the State at one time were exceedingly low, Governor Ellerbe and Dr. Timmerman arranged so that there would have to be no loan. Now that taxes are coming in, there will be no need for a loan. This is the first time in many years that it has not been found necessary to make a loan of from \$50,000 to \$150,000 during the winter.

Rev. Richard Carroll, who is agitating the subject of the establishment of a reformatory for youthful criminals, called on the Governor, by appointment, last week. The Governor expressed sympathy with the movement and said that he would do all in his power to see it consummated, but he expressed serious doubts as to whether the State would be able to do anything along that line just now as the condition of the State's finances would not admit of it, in his judgment.

The salons who will attend the coming session of the Legislature need entertain no anxiety as to their being kept warm while in the legislative hall. In addition to the hot air facilities of regulating the temperature of the place four steam-heaters will be run in each hall. These heaters were being put in last week.

At Charleston, Henry Heywood, a colored lineman in the employ of the Charleston Light and Power Company, was electrocuted by falling on live wires. His body, while hanging to the wires, emitted blue flashes for about three minutes.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Cheraw and Darlington Railroad Company was held in Florence. A dividend of \$1.50 per share was declared, payable on Dec. 10. At Charleston the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Northeastern Railroad Company was also held, and a semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent. was declared.

The North Atlantic squadron will rendezvous in Hampton Roads this winter, and will very likely visit Charleston.

# CHARLESTON'S GALA WEEK.

The Last Time Legislature Can Sit Over 40 Days.

## PALMETTO STATE NEWS ITEMS.

Two Constables Pardoned—Gov. Ellerbe's Position as to the Constabulary—Sentence Commuted.

Charleston's Gala Week, begins on Monday, Dec. 18th. It was intended to hold the festival week during the month of October but the prevalence of yellow fever in the South and the requirements of the board of health that all persons entering the city should be armed with health certificates forced the committee to defer the festivities. The postponement of the Gala Week has given the committee additional time to perfect the arrangements with the result that the Gala Week this year will be one of the most attractive and successful that has ever taken place. The arrangements already concluded insure a week chock full of amusements of every kind and a most enjoyable time to all who take in the festival. The city will have on her gala dress. A decided feature will be the grand firework spectacle known as the "Battle of Bunker Hill." The committee has gone to a heavy expense in engaging this spectacle, which ranks as the chief piece of the Paine Fireworks Company's productions. A grand fireman's tournament reel contest, ending with a street parade of Charleston's unsurpassed fire department. A number of reel companies from all over South Carolina and North Carolina have signified their intention of participating in the contest and tournaments. A floral parade, bicycle races, fantastic parade and trades display and the grand pageant of the Minions of Minerva, parade of the militia, shotgun and rifle contests, and numerous other attractions have been provided. The committee have spared neither pains nor expense to get up a fine show and the arrangements already concluded insure the consummation of their intentions in this score.

The Governor being asked by a representative of the State about the rumor that he had agreed to put on a large number of liquor constables who would be known as "detectives," whose duty would be to go about the State, locate violations of the liquor laws and report them to the municipal authorities, said that so far as he was concerned he had removed the constabulary, but had retained two detectives and a few specials to look after the rural districts. He has already stated to the public that this was all he intended to do until he found that the municipal authorities of any place were not making any efforts at enforcing the liquor law. He says that so far as the State Board of Control is concerned, its members alone have the power to withhold the profits of any town or city in which the law is not being enforced. He alone, on the other hand, has the power to appoint constables. If the State board, when convinced that the authorities of any town are not enforcing the law, sees fit to exercise its power and then requests him to appoint the constables to look after the State's interests, he will then exercise his prerogative. This, the Governor said, was the status of the whole matter.

The approaching session of the legislature promises to be a long one. The great bone of contention will, of course be the dispensary law, but besides that educational matters, taxation and the phosphate situation will come in for a large share of argument. This will be the last session in which legislators may sit more than forty days with pay, and the prospects are that they will be engaged considerably over that time. Some well posted men believe the session will last two months. Next year the legislature may remain in session over forty days if members wish, but they will get no pay for over that time. They will remain in session over forty days then—nit.

Getting the benefit of the three mill school tax and the prospect of obtaining considerably longer terms in the public schools of the State has resulted in quite an increase in this year's enrollment of pupils in the schools. There are this year 25,846 more pupils enrolled in the public schools than last year. Nearly 10,000 of these are white pupils. Another noticeable thing is that while there were scarcely more than 100 more girls than boys last year in the public schools, this year the girls have a little over 1,000 in their favor.

The Secretary of State has issued commissions to two Charleston concerns as follows: The Berkeley Chemical Company, which is to manufacture high grade fertilizers. The capital stock is to be \$500,000 divided into shares at \$100 each. The Charleston Crockery Company. The capital is to be \$10,000 divided into shares at 100 each.

Governor Ellerbe has commuted to life imprisonment in the State penitentiary at hard labor the sentence of death imposed upon John Watkins, colored, by Judge Klugh at the recent term of court in Kershaw county upon his conviction of the crime of rape.

Governor Ellerbe has pardoned Liquor Constables J. H. Brice and J. A. May, who killed John T. Sims in the "Dark Corner" section of Spartanburg county, on Dec. 18, 1896, nearly two years ago.

Thieves and burglars are keeping the police and sheriff of Greenville busy.

Governor Ellerbe issued the regulation Thanksgiving proclamation, calling upon the people of the State to assemble on that day and return thanks to the Ruler of the Universe for the benefits that have accrued to them as a people during the past year.

The Secretary of State has granted a charter to the Simpsonville Telephone Company of Simpsonville, Greenville county.

The next annual State convention of the Y. M. C. A. will be held in Columbia, Feb. 10-13.

# A COMING CONVENTION.

The Call Issued for Meetings of Cotton Growers of Counties.

## PALMETTO STATE CULLINGS.

Charleston Forging to the Front—State S. S. Association to Send Out a Field Secretary.

Preparations are being rapidly made for the holding of the convention of the cotton growers of the Southern States in Atlanta on Dec. 18. This convention has been called by those in charge of the recent convention held in Columbia in consequence of the action taken at that time. President Wilborn, of the State Farmers' Alliance, who was president of the State convention, is confident that the gathering in Atlanta will be a most representative one.

The following has been issued by Mr. Wilborn:

By direction of the South Carolina Cotton Growers' convention, which assembled in Columbia Nov. 10, 1897, I hereby call upon every cotton grower and each person interested in producing cotton to assemble at their respective county courthouses on the first Monday of December for the purpose of effecting a permanent organization to join in with the other Southern States in taking such action as will enable the cotton growers to in some way better control the production and sale of the cotton crop of the South and in some measure obtain the full market value of this great staple crop.

J. C. WILBORN, President of S. C. Cotton Growers' Association.

Mr. Wilborn was in Columbia last week. He fears that the cotton growers in the various States will not have time to meet and elect delegates to represent them at the convention because of the nearness of the date appointed and he will ask Governor Ellerbe to write a personal letter to each of the governors of the other Southern States asking them to appoint two delegates at large and one from each congressional district in their respective States. Governor Ellerbe, it is understood will write these letters at once. The several governors will be asked to appoint men who are directly concerned in the matter and such men only.

The coming convention will doubtless attract widespread attention both in the North and the South and the result of its deliberations will be awaited with no little concern, particularly by those who manipulate the price of cotton.

Saturday, the 13th, was a red letter day in the commercial history of Charleston. It marked the shipment of the largest amount of exports that ever left that port before in one day. Six British steamships were cleared and the total cargoes of the half dozen vessels consisted of 40,000 bales of upland cotton, 16,500 sacks of flour, 3,700 tons of pig iron, 5,000 bushels of wheat, 1,088 barrels of rosin, 25,000 feet of cypress lumber and 500 tons of cotton seed. This proves conclusively that the efforts of the merchants and business men to build up Charleston and increase the advantages and facilities of the port have not been in vain, and the departure of the six big steamships should put an end to all the pessimistic views that may have been entertained as to the future of the city.—News and Courier.

There was a meeting of the executive committee of the South Carolina Sunday School association during fair week. Two sessions were held in the local Y. M. C. A. hall in Columbia, President Charles H. Carlisle, of Spartanburg, presiding. The reports indicated that the Sunday school work in the State is in good condition. Plans were adopted for the advancement of the work. It was decided among other things to put Mr. Frank F. Whilden, of Charleston, to work as field secretary. He will devote his entire time to the work and will assume the duties of his new position on Dec. 1. Mr. Whilden is an earnest Christian worker, having been doing fine volunteer work for years.

The News and Courier's Spartanburg correspondent says Judge Aldrich's lecture before the students of Wofford College attracted a large audience. Besides about 250 students from both colleges, there was a large number of others present. He complimented the College for the excellent work it had done in the past, and stated that he considered that an appropriate question for consideration was: "After graduation—What?" For an hour the Judge brought from the store house of his mind treasures new and old, and applied them to the subject in hand. He spoke without notes or manuscript, and his style was graceful and attractive.

The Register says there were conferences and wire-pulling, without end, and an allotment of offices, just as if the people had nothing to do with it, during Fair week, and the following prominent gentlemen are spoken of as probable candidates for Governor: E. L. Archer, Spartanburg; Col. O. L. Schumper, Leon J. Williams, Judge Buchanan, L. D. Childs, W. C. McGowan, "Uncle" George Tillman, Seaton Harrison, of Greenville; Col. D. H. Tompkins, Congressman Talbert, Judge Hudson and probably others.

Another excursion of merchants from towns on the line of the Ohio River and Charleston Railway visited Charleston last week.

The famous Vandercook original package case is to be taken up to the United States Supreme Court to obtain a decision in ample time for the guidance of the General Assembly when it meets in January. Attorney General Barber feels confident that he will win the fight over the main issue involved.

Joshua Frye shot and killed Bailey Buchanan, six miles from Laurens. They were colored boys and, it is said, were playing and the pistol was accidentally discharged.

# THE CONFEDERATE ROLLS.

How Mr. Bradley Reduces the Acreage of Cotton One-Half.

## A STATE JOCKEY CLUB.

The Redistricting Bill—Hung With Suspenders—York's New Representative—Other Dots.

Mr. W. T. Bradley, of Troy, in a communication to The State, has the following to say in the connection of reducing the acreage of cotton: "It is a fact well known to every one that our financial condition is depressed—I mean the Southern States—and it is all due to the fact that we are getting nothing for cotton, our money crop; and this is caused, as we well know, by over-production. Various remedies have been suggested. It is a problem that has taxed the minds of our best thinkers and most practical farmers for years. That something must be done is evident, or we cannot see future relief."

"I suppose it will not come amiss for me to give my experience in the fond hope that what I say will be the means of doing something to relieve the situation. I have made a study of this subject and shall attempt to give you my experience."

"It is universally conceded that reduction of the acreage is the cure for all the ills." How to bring about this reduction is the question. Any of the plans suggested would bring the desired relief if carried out.

"My plan is this: Let the farmer prepare as much land for cotton as he may wish, but when he is ready to plant, let him plant every other row in cotton, and in June let him plant the remaining rows in peas. This, you will observe, reduces the acreage one-half but does not reduce the yield so much, as my experience teaches me."

"I make at least three-fourths of a crop of cotton, and peas without limit. You enrich your land, so that in a few years you can make a bale per acre with every alternate row in peas, have an abundance of feed, and consequently fast stock and your bacon at home. Besides, you save one-half fertilizer, one-half hoeing and one-third plowing."

"We have in cultivation this year 24,000,000 acres. We will make (in round numbers) 10,000,000 bales. This cotton is worth at the present price \$250,000,000. Now, to follow the plan suggested, we would have 12,000,000 in cultivation, which would yield 7,500,000 bales, or \$300,000,000 at 8 cents per pound, a gain of \$50,000,000, to say nothing about the cost of production, which, as I have shown, would be about one-half."

"If it is not desirable to plant so many peas, you can plant pinders, sweet or Irish potatoes, with equal success. I bought ten acres of very poor land and farmed it as above suggested, and today I am offered \$400 for the ten acres. I am making a bale of cotton per acre, and corn, etc., in proportion."

There was a State Jockey Club formed at Columbia during the fair. The object is to encourage the raising of blooded horses and the having of annual meets. The following gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year: President—Col. John G. Haskell; first Vice President—Thomas Taylor; second Vice President—W. H. Frazier. Executive Committee—A. T. Smythe, Charleston; Stirling Hinson, Charleston; Silas McCaughrin, Newberry; D. P. Verner, Greenville; James Cantey, Camden; J. K. Garnett, Garnett; F. D. Kendall, Columbia; W. B. S. Whaley, Columbia; J. B. Bates, Barnwell; C. S. McCullough, Darlington. Secretary—W. L. Sanders, Clarendon. Treasurer—Hugh Weighan, Columbia. The executive committee will meet in February, 1898, with the executive committee of the fair association for conference to complete the union between the two organizations. The annual dues have been placed at the nominal sum of \$10, which includes membership fees and dues for the first year, so as to induce every gentleman throughout the State who is in sympathy with the promotion of such an organization to join and make the association a strong and representative one.

One of the matters remaining upon calendar at the last session of the General Assembly was the redistricting bill. It will be high up on the calendar at the approaching session and its author proposes to push it. There may be a few changes in the bill, but they will be of immaterial character. The author of the bill, in an interview with a representative of the State, stated that he had conferred with many of the members of the body during the recent State Fair and had found that a great deal of the opposition developed at the last session has disappeared. There will be some opposition of course, but he hopes to get the bill through after presenting the argument showing the necessity for such a measure.

Col. J. P. Thomas, the State historian, requests all parties in the State having in their possession Confederate rolls sent them by the late General Farley for revision to send those rolls in to his office at once. He is very desirous of taking an inventory of all the rolls and getting the work thoroughly systematized. A number of these rolls have already been returned, but there are still a number of them that cannot be located. With the approval of Governor Ellerbe an arrangement has been made whereby the adjutant general is at once to turn over all the Confederate records of every character now on file in his office to the State historian.

Hon. H. E. Johnson has been nominated by a primary election as representative from York county, to succeed L. K. Hunston, deceased. Mr. Johnson's majority over his opponent, Mr. W. J. Cherry, of Rock Hill, will be not less than 150, and may be more than 200.

A special to The State from Walhalla, says: Ira Lee, a highly respected citizen of Long Creek community, seventeen miles above here, committed suicide in the woods near his home by choking himself to death by a pair of suspenders.